

# Castlemaine Naturalist

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**Monthly newsletter of the  
Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club Inc.**



Lake Mountain Grevillea, *Grevillea monslacana*. See SEANA report.  
Photo: Jenny Rolland

## Restoring Habitat for the Bright-eyed Brown

Euan Moore

At the November Monthly Meeting, our speaker was Brian Bainbridge, Biodiversity Officer with the Hepburn Shire Council. Brian spoke about the projects in Daylesford and Trentham that are restoring wetlands to a more natural state. For these projects the Bright-eyed Brown butterfly is being successfully used as a flagship species to engender community interest.

The Bright-eyed Brown has five subspecies, two of which are found in Victoria. The nominate sub-species, *Heteronympha cordace* ssp. *cordace*, occurs from Daylesford in the west through the high country into NSW. The Daylesford – Trentham records are the only current records west of Melbourne. It is regarded as common nationally, but very local in occurrence. Sub-species *wilsonii* from south-west Victoria is critically endangered.

The butterflies prefer montane bogs from 600m – 1800m where the larval food plant, Tall Sedge, *Carex appressa*, grows and where favoured food plants for the adults such as *Leptospermum* and *Melaleuca* spp. also grow well. The adult butterflies are not such fussy eaters as the larvae so will also take nectar from introduced plants such as Creeping Buttercup, *Ranunculus repens*.



Bright-eyed Brown butterfly, showing the more prominent "eye" spots and smaller size distinguishing it from the Common Brown butterfly. Photo: Brian Bainbridge

Brian described the six principles for ecological restoration paraphrased from the guidelines from the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia (SERA), all of which he had found useful in guiding his work. These are:

1. Find a model for your restoration, preferably an intact site.
2. Less resilient, more degraded sites will require more effort.
3. Have clear targets, goals and objectives.
4. The goal is full recovery, as far as is possible.
5. Restoration science and practice inform each other, and
6. Social aspects are critical to success.

The first restoration site was Wombat Flat at Daylesford. This site was heavily infested with introduced willows and other weeds. During 2016 the willows were cleared and other weedy vegetation removed. There was an unplanned halt to work from 2017 - 2022 which, in hindsight, proved fortuitous as it demonstrated the natural resilience of the area as many native wetland plants regenerated without assistance. This resilience may not have been obvious had remedial planting started immediately. Since then there has been additional planting of native species to replace missing links in the ecosystem. We were then shown before and after images of a second site at Jubilee Lake, Daylesford where there was originally an almost impenetrable cover of willows. By January 2021 this site had an almost complete cover of native herbs and some shrubs. Additional native wetland plants planted by community volunteers has added to the biodiversity.

Small remnant populations of Bright-eyed Brown were found at both Wombat Flat and Jubilee Lake. The few individuals remaining had survived on a handful of plants of Tall Sedge on the edge of the wetland. The restoration works have increased the habitat for this species and their numbers are growing. The populations are now less isolated than they were before restoration started.

Brian described the model which he was using for restoration - a small wetland on the Coliban River near Lyonville where the Bright-eyed Brown still occurred. This wetland is surrounded by tall eucalypt forest typical of this area and has a dense cover of sedges. It has been shown that the butterflies are sensitive to disturbance.



CFNC group at Quarry St Reserve where there is a small area of restored habitat for the Bright-eyed Brown Butterfly.

*Photo: Euan Moore*

A fence running through the middle of a nearby wetland shows the impact of grazing on the butterflies. The fenced-off area where there is no grazing has a good population of butterflies which sometimes venture into the grazed area but quickly return to the ungrazed area.

Brian's talk also described the restoration areas at

Trentham, however we had a more detailed look at these during the excursion the next day. There are several relatively small areas within the town area that are being restored along Stoney Ck and Trent Ck. In addition to the Hepburn Shire Council, the Loddon-Mallee CMA and DEECA, there are three community groups involved with this work. Brian plays an overall guiding role for all these projects and stressed the importance of a local native nursery for supplying appropriate plants for the area.

The first site that we looked at was a small section of Stoney Ck near the children's playground in Quarry Reserve where Tall Sedge and butterfly food plants had been established beside the creek. There were only a few of these plants here but sufficient for a small population of butterflies. This planting was in a prominent location where it could showcase the project.

Our second excursion site was a couple of hundred meters upstream. This was a much larger site with boggy wetlands and some large Brooker's Gum, *Eucalyptus brookeriana*. There is a walking path alongside this wetland and signage explaining the importance of the habitat for the butterfly. The introduced Creeping Buttercup was present in many of the wetlands but fortunately had not been removed completely as it was found to be a food plant for the adult Bright-eyed Brown butterfly.

The third Trentham site was along Trent Ck. The upper part of this site is boggy ground that has been cleared of willows. Future restoration work will replace the weeds with native wetland herbs and shrubs. As we walked downstream, we came to Chinaman's Spring, a pool several meters across with a good flow of water which fed into Trent Ck. Near here a small weedy stand of Silver Birch, *Betula pendula*, has been removed along with willows and blackberry. It is early days for this restoration, but native wetland plants are starting to reappear. It is expected that Bright-eyed Brown butterflies will



Early stage of habitat restoration along Trent Ck. Silver Birch and willows have been removed. Some native wetland herbs are starting to return. The yellow flowers are Creeping Buttercup, an introduced species but used as a food plant by the butterflies. Photo: Jenny Rolland

colonise this site as they are already present across the road on another part of the creek.

The overall aim with this project is to extend the restoration along the creeks so that the butterflies have a path to link their various populations. They are not strong fliers so without habitat connectivity the small populations are isolated and prone to local extinction. As the butterfly naturally favours cooler climates, bolstering these habitat refuges will also protect against the effects of climate change.

Brian emphasised that these projects had demonstrated the value of ‘assisted natural regeneration’ and the benefits of leaving time to observe and work with a site’s natural resilience. As evidence of the value of designating a flag-ship species for the revegetation work, the local community has designated one of the sites “Butterfly Corner”, with a sign explaining the vegetation restoration that had been done to improve biodiversity and stormwater filtration, detailing the plants including Tall Sedge and its role as a food plant for the Bright-eyed Brown butterfly.

Thank you Brian for an inspiring and informative talk and for leading an excellent excursion that showed us the challenges and impact of your work.

**Note:** The butterflies were not flying at the time of our excursion. If you want to see them, visit Trentham around the third week of December and if you are in a local café, mention to the staff that you are there for the butterflies so that they will value their special creatures. Images to help with the butterfly ID can be found on our website ([Bright-eyed-Brown.pdf](#)).

## SEANA Spring Camp, 25-27 October, Marysville

Over the weekend of 25-27 October, several CFNC members joined with other south-east Australian FNC members for an excellent SEANA Spring Camp hosted by the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club Inc. The hosts decided to hold the camp at Marysville, giving a much-needed boost to the local tourism of the town, still recovering from the devastating bushfires of 2009. The cool, tall forests of the region, often with lush green undergrowth, was quite a contrast from our home climate and vegetation communities. The program included 4 full-day excursions and 7 half-day trips, designed to cater for a range of interests and abilities. The camp was extremely well organised, with a notable change being meeting at the excursion starting point instead of travelling in convoy from the community centre (with its usual hiccoughs!).



The beautiful, lush fern gullies and tall Silver Wattles and Mountain Ash of the lower forest on Lake Mountain that had escaped the 2009 fire.

*Photo: Jenny Rolland*

Evening meals were well catered for by a local café with two excellent dinner speakers. On Saturday evening, Sue Parry, the local Environmental Officer and author of the “Lake Mountain Field Guide”, spoke about “The recovery of Lake Mountain after the 2009 fires, and the wealth of wildflowers since”. And on Sunday evening, Karina Cartwright spoke on “Three decades of recovering the Helmeted Honeyeater”, having first-hand experience as Healesville Sanctuary’s Supervisor of Life Sciences and Fighting Extinction.

Euan and I chose the full-day excursion to Alexandra for the Saturday. We first did a walk around the McKenzie Nature Conservation Reserve with a focus on the birds. This reserve has had a chequered history of land use and ownership but is now fortunately securely protected. The trees were largely Red Box, *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*, well adorned with mistletoe, and there were River Red Gums, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, in the gullies. Our bird list there had a pleasing 45 species, with a highlight being excellent views of two pairs of Leaden Flycatchers, displaying and calling strongly. There was an interesting native understory with



Female leaden Flycatcher, McKenzie NCR.

*Photo: Euan Moore*



White-throated Gerygone at  
Grannies Lane. *Photo: Euan Moore*

several species of orchid and some butterflies to identify. After lunch, we went for a wander along Grannies Lane which was bordered by a bushy corridor including River Red Gums, several wattle species and Chocolate Lillies, *Arthropodium strictum*. The mixed vegetation yielded another great bird list, this time highlighted by the beautiful call and sightings of the White-throated Gerygone, including one on a nest.

On Sunday, Euan and I were interested to see the recovery of Lake Mountain after the 2009 fire, having skied there many times in the past. We were able to see the different rates of recovery of the different trees and shrubs that we had heard about from Sue Parry the previous evening. There had been initial concern that the native Myrtle Beech, *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, had been largely lost to the fire, but amazingly, epicormic shoots emerged on some trees after several years and those trees have continued to sprout new shoots along their trunks. In contrast, there was a lush regrowth of Mountain Hickory Wattle, *Acacia obliquinervia*. The Snow Gums, *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, were recovering well from their underground tubers, but the Alpine Ash, *Eucalyptus delegatensis*, recovery was much slower, likely a result of too frequent burning. There were areas where Alpine Ash recovery was poor, and some large, blackened stumps were probably from the 1939 fires.

We were a little early for many of the sub-alpine flowers but there were wonderful shows of Mountain Phebalium, *Leionema phylicifolium*, lining the higher-up tracks along with the endemic Lake Mountain Grevillea, *Grevillea monslacana*, which is restricted to the Lake Mountain area and has regrown in abundance in the resort area. In the open heathland and bogs of Echo Flat, there were buttercups, Long-leaf Wax Flowers, *Philoteca myoporoides*, and Candle Heath, *Richtia continentis*. Further down the mountain we walked along Leadbeater Track, where there were abundant pink Long-leaf Wax Flowers. We learnt of the desperate attempts to restore the Leadbeater Possum population there, reduced to about 10 by the fire. However there were still sightings of dashing Flame Robins up the mountain and the incredible repertoire of Superb Lyrebirds lower down.



Recovery of the Snow Gums from their underground tubers after the 2009 fire.

*Photo: Jenny Rolland*



Mountain Phebalium, *Leionema phylicifolium*. *Photo: Euan Moore*



Long-leaf Wax Flower, *Philoteca myoporoides*. *Photo: Euan Moore*

We then drove further down the mountain for a walk along a 4WD track through a forest of tall Silver Wattle and Mountain Ash that had escaped the 2009 fire but was likely regrown after logging or the 1939 fires. There were Tree Ferns and other ferns in the gullies and the banks of the track were covered in mosses and lichens. This time, the Myrtle Beech trees in the gullies were healthy with dappled sunshine filtering through their leaves. Our new birds here were Lewin's Honeyeater, and Olive Whistler. These together with another magnificent Lyrebird performance, yielded a stunning soundscape.

An extremely enjoyable and interesting weekend; we recommend joining SEANA gatherings in the future.

Jenny Rolland and Euan Moore

During the SEANA gathering, there were also opportunities for self-guided walks. So on Saturday morning some of our members enjoyed the Gilbert's Gully loop track near the edge of town. There was a tall eucalypt forest on the slopes around the gully, with a recent asset protection burn on one side of the start of the track. The track crossed Wilks creek twice (*photo on right*), passing through changing types of vegetation. Seventeen bird species were recorded including the Eastern Whipbird and a cooperative Shining Bronze-cuckoo.

Gilbert's Gully report and photos by Peter Turner



Shining Bronze-cuckoo.



River Rose *Bauera rubioides*.



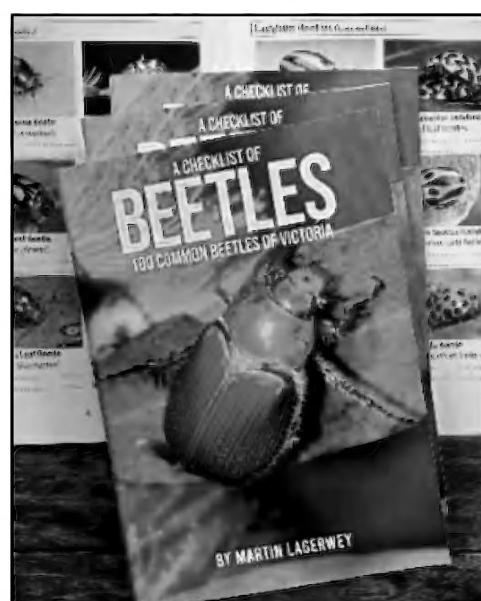
Poached Coral Fern  
*Gleichenia dicarpa*.

## New book: "A Checklist of Beetles - 100 Common Beetles of Victoria"

The Entomological Society of Victoria has just released its latest publication, "**A Checklist of Beetles – 100 Common Beetles of Victoria**".

Compiled by EntSocVic Councillor Martin Lagerwey, this book is the 2nd volume in the "100 Insects Series" and contains beautiful photographic contributions from over 65 people. It is suitable for children and adults and is designed to inspire us to learn more about the huge diversity of beetles in our backyards, parks and bushland.

The book only costs \$10 and is available for purchase via the EntSocVic online store (<https://www.entsocvic.org.au/store>).



# November Roadside Clean-up report

Geoff Harris

Our final Roadside Clean-up for 2024 was held on Monday 11 November. It was a pleasure doing the clean-up with good weather, a great turn-out of volunteers (11) and a good display of wildflowers on the road reserve. There was less rubbish on the whole but a number of *Gazania* plants, in full bloom and ready to set seed, competing with the more subtle native plants.

## Flowers recorded were:

Wiry Buttons (*Leptorhynchos tenuifolius*)  
Fairy Wax-flower (*Philotheeca verrucosa*)  
Tall Rice-flower (*Pimelea longifolia*)  
Black-anther Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*)  
Slender Groundsel (*Senecio phelleus*)  
Gold-dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*)  
Inland Pigface (*Carpobrotus modestus*)  
Supple Spear-grass (*Austrostipa mollis*)  
Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia* sp.)  
Totem Poles (*Melaleuca decussata*)  
Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa* subsp. *spinosa*)  
Red-anther Wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma pallidum*)  
Showy Parrot-pea (*Dillwynia sericea*)  
Loose-flower Bush-pea (*Pultenaea laxiflora*)  
Sticky Everlasting (*Xerochrysum viscosum*)  
Grey Everlasting (*Ozothamnus obcordatus*)  
Magenta Stork's-bill (*Pelargonium rodneyanum*)



Supple Spear-grass  
*Austrostipa mollis*\*



Thank you Lisa, Jenny, Euan, Jan, Helen,  
Geraldine, Alison, Peter, Mandy & Nigel.

Photos by Geraldine\* and Geoff Harris



Black-anther Flax-lily  
(*Dianella revoluta*)



Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa* subsp. *spinosa*)\*



Magenta Stork's-bill  
(*Pelargonium rodneyanum*)

# Orchid Search – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 by Russell Stanley

It has been a horrific year for orchids in Central and Northern Victoria with conditions very dry and early heatwaves. Many species you would expect to see at this time of year are in very small numbers or have not emerged at all. With this in mind, and a bit of insider knowledge from Cathrine Harboe-Ree and Phil Hopley, I set out to look at sites around Maldon, Muckleford, Walmer and Castlemaine. My goal: Sun Orchids of the area, in particular hybrids like *Theelymitra xmacmillanii*.

The day chosen was warm and sunny, but a bit early and not hot enough for most of the small *Theelymitra pauciflora* complex species to open.

## Species seen:

### Maldon – Rock of Ages area:

- Flowering:      Golden Cowslips - *Diuris behrii*  
                  Mountain Mantis Orchid - *Caladenia atrovespa*  
                  Golden Moths – *Diuris chryseopsis*  
                  Wax-lip orchid – *Caladenia (Glossodia) major*  
In bud:          Forest Sun-orchid – *Theelymitra arenaria*  
                  Nuggetty Rustyhood – *Pterostylis biseta*

### Maldon – Smiths Reef Tk area:

- Flowering:      Hooded Caladenia / Caps - *Caladenia cucullata*  
                  Wax-lip Orchid – *Caladenia (Glossodia) major*  
                  Salmon Sun-orchid – *Theelymitra rubra*  
                  Spotted Sun-orchid – *Theelymitra ixoides*

### Muckleford:

- Flowering:      Pink Fingers – *Caladenia carneae*  
                  Scented Caladenia / Caps – *Caladenia moschata*  
                  Hooded Caladenia / Caps – *Caladenia cucullata*  
                  Wax-lip Orchid – *Caladenia (Glossodia) major*  
                  Nodding Greenhood – *Pterostylis nutans*  
                  Golden Cowslips - *Diuris behrii*  
                  Rabbit Ears / Lemon Sun-orchid – *Theelymitra antennifera*  
                  Scented Sun-orchid – *Theelymitra megcalyptra*  
                  Spotted Sun-orchid – *Theelymitra ixoides*  
                  Crimson Sun-orchid - *Theelymitra xmacmillanii*  
                  Pale-fruit Sun-orchid - *Theelymitra pallidiflora*  
                  Salmon Sun-orchid – *Theelymitra rubra*

### Walmer:

- Flowering:      Hooded Caladenia / Caps – *Caladenia cucullata*

### Castlemaine – Kalimna Park area:

- Flowering:      Hooded Caladenia / Caps – *Caladenia cucullata*  
                  Salmon Sun-orchid – *Theelymitra rubra*

### Notes (Cathrine Harboe-Ree):

Native orchids are subject to taxonomic review with some species names changing or species being split or lumped. At this stage some species are accepted in some State floras but not others. Castlemaine Flora is not up-to-date with the various recent changes, so some species may not be illustrated or may be illustrated under a different name.

*Cont. on page 11*

**Photos by Russell Stanley**



*Caladenia atrovespa*



*Caladenia cucullata*



*Caladenia moschata*



*Diuris behrii*



*Thelymitra antennifera*



*Thelymitra ixoides*



*Thelymitra rubra*



*Thelymitra megcalyptra*



Two variants of  
*Thelymitra xmacmillanii*



## Notes (Cont. from page 9):

The Mountain Mantis Orchid - *Caladenia atrovespa* is a widely spread and accepted species in NSW and is also present in Northern Victoria east of Wedderburn. It is smaller and has a stiffer posture than the Eastern Mantis Orchid *Caladenia tentaculata* which grows in Southern and Western Victoria. VicFlora is yet to recognise *Caladenia atrovespa* in Victoria.

The Pale-fruit Sun-orchid - *Thelymitra pallidifructus* – is a small pale blue Sun-orchid split from *Thelymitra pauciflora* in 2010 in South Australia. It has a distinct yellowish green fruit pod and has only one sterile bract on the glaucous pink stem. It is proving to be relatively common through the goldfields area. VicFlora is yet to recognise *Thelymitra pallidifructus* in Victoria.

The Wax-lip Orchid is undergoing a name change to *Caladenia major*. At this point it is still referred to as *Glossodia major* in Castlemaine Flora.

*Caladenia gracilis* (Musky / Scented Caladenia) in Castlemaine Flora will be changed to the correct name, *Caladenia moschata*.

## Observations

### Mez Woodward – development of Caper White butterfly (*Belenois java*) eggs



Left: Cluster of freshly laid eggs on a Correa leaf with typical spindle shape, tapering to a point and with ribbed walls.



Below: The eggs turn a pale orange and black heads of caterpillars are seen close to hatching.



Left: Newly hatched caterpillars.

Gary Sobey from the Butterfly House advised that they often lay on non caper family plants on their migrations, but larvae always die on emerging on non capers. This is referred to as “egg dumping”.

## Observations (cont.)



**John Lewis**  
followed a Tawny Frogmouth nesting in Goldsmith Crescent. The parents successfully raised one to fledge, but two other nestlings did not survive, found dead under the nest at different times.



### Peter Turner



Blue Ant (or Bluebottle ant), *Diamma bicolor*, seen early November, Muckleford. It is in fact a female parasitic wasp. Males have wings. Target species is a mole cricket.



A pair of Shingle-back (aka Stumpy-tail) Lizards, *Tiliqua rugosa*, seen during the November Roadside clean-up. Very lethargic - still warming up? Museum Vic app states they pair for life.

## Observations (cont.)

**Euan Moore** – sightings on the Alexandra excursion, Spring SEANA



Montane Ochre, *Trapezites phigalioides*,  
McKenzie NCR.



Fallen Bark Looper, *Gastrophora henricaria*,  
Alexandra gardens

**Jill Williams**



A pair of mating wasp-mimicking Long-horned/ Longicorn Beetles, *Enchoptera apicalis*. Characteristic that most species have antennae longer than their bodies.



Blue-spotted Hawker, *Adversaeschna brevistyla*, McKenzie NCR.

**Leonie Postle**



Flying Duck Orchid, *Caleana major*. Seen early November near Vaughan.

## Have you seen this sun moth?

The Cryptic Sun Moth, *Synemon theresa*, was last seen in Victoria, near Castlemaine, about 100 years ago. It is currently listed as Extinct in Victoria although there are surviving populations in the Adelaide Hills and Clare Valley in South Australia.

Does it still occur in Victoria? iNaturalist moth experts are keen to get citizen scientists' help in searching for it, especially in our region. Its habitat is native grasslands and grassy woodlands with *Themeda*, *Austrodanthonia* and *Rytidosperma* species which are potential host plants.

If you can, spend some time over summer checking any native grasslands in our area for sun moths.

Sun moths are day-flying moths, best seen during the middle of the day when temperatures are in the mid-high 20s. They have clubbed antennae similar to butterflies. When settled, they usually hold their wings in the shape of a tent. But when the wings do open, the orange panels on the under-wing can be seen. The wingspan of the Cryptic Sun Moth is 30-40mm. More information about this and other sun moth species is on the [BCSA inc. website](#).

All species of sun moths are important as most are threatened. Take a photo of any possibilities and load them on to iNaturalist. You might get lucky and bring a species back from the dead, at least in Victoria.

Euan Moore



## Watching for H5N1 Avian Influenza

The H5N1 strain of avian influenza is highly pathogenic and has killed millions of wild birds around the world. Experts predict it could arrive here with the spring and summer migration of shorebirds and seabirds from the Northern Hemisphere, so Australian authorities are conducting intensive surveillance. We should all be alert for any signs in our wild bird population. Early detection is imperative.

If you find a sick or dead wild bird,

- avoid contact,
- record location,
- take a photo, then
- report this as soon as possible to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline: **1800 675 888**.

BirdLife Australia has developed a website (<https://birdlife.org.au/avian-influenza/>) and information sheet that tells you about the symptoms of bird flu and actions you can take.



Photo credit:  
jvanweenen/iNaturalist



Red Knot. Photo: John Stirling, Birdlife Australia

## COMING EVENTS

### **MEMBERS' NIGHT! Friday 13th December, 7.30pm Uniting Church Fellowship Room, Lyttleton St, Castlemaine**

A chance for you to share your interesting nature observations and stories from the year. Did you see some interesting wildlife behaviour? A new reptile for your property? What interests you will interest us!



Email your photos to Euan Moore at [calamanthus5@bigpond.com](mailto:calamanthus5@bigpond.com) by noon on the day of the meeting or bring your presentation on a USB stick to the meeting.

Contact Euan if you have any queries about your presentation.

Please bring a small contribution to a special end-of-year supper.

### **END OF YEAR PICNIC: Tuesday 17th Dec, 5pm onwards Castlemaine Botanical Gardens**

Meet on the lawn at the northern end of the Botanical Gardens to relax and enjoy good company in a beautiful setting.

Peter Turner will update us on the activities of the CBG Powerful Owl family.

BYO-everything (including chairs and insect repellent)

Park in Downes Rd near the corner with Froomes Rd and enter by the NE gate, or park in the northern Downes Rd carpark.

### **FROM THE COMMITTEE**

We are almost at the end of another busy and rewarding year full of stimulating meetings and activities. Pleasingly, we also end the year with a record number of members, 110, which is a 10% increase on the previous year.

After some months of careful behind-the-scenes work, our Christmas present, if you like, is the arrival of printed copies of the 3rd edition of the glossy *Indigenous Plants of Castlemaine and Surrounds* brochure. This will be available for sale at our meetings and through the Visitor Information Centre. Led by Lou Citroën, with help from Geraldine Harris, Cathrine Harboe-Ree and others, this is an extensive overhaul of the 2016 edition, with clearer photos and updated plant names. We are very grateful for financial support from The Good Op Shop, the Wettenhall Environment Trust and Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests (FOBIF).

In other collaborative activities, we have co-signed a letter to the Mount Alexander Shire Council drafted by FOBIF, requesting that Council develop a biodiversity strategy, and we are taking the lead on writing a letter to businesses that stock harmful second-generation rat poisons, recommending that they replace these with products that are less damaging to native wildlife.

We look forward to seeing you at our end-of-year events and wish all members and their families a merry Christmas and New Year. Plans are well advanced for another terrific year of activities which we will enjoy sharing with you.

Cathrine Harboe-Ree, Secretary, CFNC

# Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club

## PROGRAM

See "Coming Events" page for more details about December events.

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec, Members' night 7.30pm.** Uniting Church Hall. A chance to share your nature highlights from the year!

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, Picnic,** Castlemaine Botanical Gardens, **5pm** onwards.

### Program for 2025

**January – no meeting or excursion,** but this is the time to search for Eltham Copper Butterflies, Sun Moths and other interesting flora and fauna! Check our website for help.

**Monthly talks and excursions** will resume in February.

Details will be emailed to members and posted on our website.

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, Meeting 7.30pm** Uniting Church Hall. Our first speaker for the year will be noted local field naturalist, **John Walter**, who will share his images and thoughts as he takes us "*Beyond the Honeybees*".

### **VISITORS ARE WELCOME AT CLUB ACTIVITIES**

**Castlemaine Naturalist** - email newsletter material to: [newsletter.cfnc@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.cfnc@gmail.com)

\* Deadline for the **February edition: 31st January**

**Subscriptions** ([Membership forms on CFNC website](#), fees due by 1<sup>st</sup> April)

Ordinary membership: Single \$35, Family \$50

Pensioner or student: Single \$25, Family \$30

Subscription includes the monthly newsletter, Castlemaine Naturalist.

#### **Committee**

President: Euan Moore (0407 519 091)

Vice-President: Vacant

Secretary: Cathrine Harboe-Ree

Treasurer: Geoff Harris

Committee: Lou Citroen Jenny Rolland Peter Turner

Jill Williams Noel Young

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